

June 2014

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Garner PD welcomes new team members. See page 2.



Town ready for another great July 3rd celebration See page 3.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

June 17: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

June 24: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

July 4: HOLIDAY

July 7: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV 11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



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GARNER UPDATE

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The Garner Senior Center has become a fixture in the community for people of all ages. The center offers a broad range of classes and programming.

State Reaffirms Garner Senior Center's Excellence

The Garner Senior Center was recertified last month as a Center of Excellence by the State of North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. The designation was the result of a five-year process that involved documenting achievement in five different operational areas: outreach and access to services; programs and activities; planning, evaluation and input from older adults; staffing; and operations.

Certification is a voluntary process that enables senior centers to be recognized in their communities and across the state. The certification process strengthens the capacity of senior centers by providing a set of measurable indicators of best practices. Centers of Excellence have proven they provide exemplary services and opportunities to their communities

and serve as mentors and models to developing centers.

Because of the Center of Excellence designation (which was originally attained in 2009), the Garner Senior Center will remain eligible for three shares of funding from the State of North Carolina instead of a single share. These funds are used to enhance services at the center.

The Garner Senior Center is owned and operated by the Town of Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department and works in cooperation with Resources for Seniors and Meals on Wheels to offer a full-service facility for adults age 55 and older. Most basic services are free of charge and are available to residents of Garner and the surrounding area.



You can follow the Garner Senior Center on Facebook.



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's "Great People in Garner" on GTVII (Time Warner 11, AT&T 99) and on demand at garnernc.gov and youtube.com/townofgarner.

Not to brag, but it seems that every time you turn around, Garner is getting another accolade (or two).



Garner recently was named a Playful City USA because of the opportunities it offers children of all backgrounds to be active. Our Senior Center was also recertified as a Center of Excellence by the state. These two honors demonstrate that

the Town is committed to providing a great quality of life to all citizens.

And if you read the brief update below on the bond program, you'll see that we're continuing to move forward on quality-of-life issues by enhancing our already-fantastic park system. Of course, these park improvements are all thanks to you, the citizens who supported the bond program in a special election last year.

You'll be learning more about the status of our bond projects in the

coming months. One of the biggest projects is about ready to get under way—the new public safety center next to the Southeast Regional Library. Work will start soon on renovating and upfitting the building at 912 Seventh Ave., which will be home to the public safety center.

Have a great summer. Hope to see you at our annual July 3rd Independence Day Celebration.

Ronnie S. Williams

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Garner PD Welcomes New Personnel

The Garner Police Department has recently added four new members to its team.

Al Rivera

Rivera was sworn in as an officer on June 6. He attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He served on the NYPD for a total of four years. Officer Rivera was also employed with the Miami Beach Police Department for 14 years serving in various assignments. He also worked for Durham PD in 2011, later re-joining Miami Beach PD.

Thomas "Tommy" Edwards

Edwards has joined Garner PD as a new services officer. The primary role of the two services officers is to patrol parks and lock park gates and restrooms during the evenings. They will also assist patrol with animal control calls and other calls that do not require a sworn officer's response. In addition, they will be first responders for Public Works after hours to assist in evaluating the nature of emergencies and help determine the response needed.

Edwards holds a bachelor's degree in history from Campbell University.

He received his North Carolina firefighter I/II certification last year and is a current member of the Civil Air Patrol. Edwards will be starting the basic law enforcement training program at Wake Technical Community College this summer.

Kevin Hoyle

Hoyle also has joined Garner PD as a services officer. The Virginia Beach native graduated from Liberty University in May, receiving a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Hoyle serves as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard.

Della McKinnon

McKinnon is the Police Department's new records manager. She earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in criminal justice, both from North Carolina Central University. She also holds a master's of theological studies from Duke University and a doctorate of ministry from the Apex School of Theology. Prior to joining Garner PD, McKinnon worked for the Durham Police Department as a records manager. She started her law enforcement career as a police officer with Durham PD.

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

Council OKs Enhancements to Town Parks

The Town Council has given the go-ahead for \$1 million in park enhancements to be paid for with bonds approved by voters last year (see garnerbonds.com for details on bond program). Enhancements include:

- \$510,000 for replacement of restroom and concession areas at Garner Recreation Park and South Garner Park.
- \$107,500 for dugout covers for all Town baseball/softball fields (five total).
- \$90,000 for a mobile stage.
- \$200,000 for two dog parks (sites still to be finalized, though one is likely to be in North Garner, the other in South Garner).
- \$92,500 for various other improvements including fencing for areas of soccer field at South Garner Park.



Garner Earns Playful City USA Status

Garner has been honored as a 2014 Playful City USA by KaBOOM!, a national non-profit dedicated to saving play for America's children.



The KaBOOM! Playful City USA program, sponsored by the Humana Foundation, honors cities, towns and communities across America that are taking bold steps to ensure that all children, especially the 16 million American children living in poverty, have easy access to balanced and active play in their communities.

This year, 212 cities and towns

across the United States were Playful City USA honorees. These communities are leaders in playability—the extent to which a city makes it easy for children to get balanced and active play—and are making play part of the solution for countless urban challenges.

“We are proud of our programs, facilities and special events, as well as the level of dedication each staff person—including those in Public Works and the Police Department—exhibits while working to successfully maintain the aesthetics and safety of our parks,” Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director Sonya Shaw said. “We are honored to serve our citizens and will continue striving to give our very

best service to patrons and visitors as we ‘Discover, Play and Celebrate.’”

The mission of the Garner Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department is to improve the quality of life in Garner by offering a diverse system of parks, facilities, programs and cultural resources. The Town’s parks, recreation facilities and the Garner Performing Arts Center offer great activities—including fitness classes, athletics, camps, cultural arts, special events and more—for citizens ages 2 to 55 and over.

For more information on KaBOOM! and the Playful Cities USA program, please visit kaboom.org.



You can follow Garner PRCR on Facebook and Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).

Garner Gets Ready for July 3rd Celebration

The July 3rd Independence Day Celebration at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road) is an evening of fun activities for the entire family. The festivities include entertainment, tasty concessions provided by local nonprofits and a kids’ adventure zone with infatables, crafts and a deejay.

The Carolina Soul Band will play dance music to kick off the event, and citizens will have the chance to join our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department in a town-wide performance of the All-America City Shuffle. To learn the dance moves, check out a short video at <http://bit.ly/1ppt5mW>.

Garner’s own Rozlyn Sorrell will sing the National Anthem. The North Carolina Symphony will then perform an Independence Day concert before the best fireworks show in the Triangle hits the sky.

Gates open at 5 p.m. There is limited parking inside the park, so the Town provides free shuttle service from Bryan Farms at 1832 New Bethel Church Road for the duration of the event. Handicap-accessible parking is located at Lake Benson Park.

For more information about this free event, visit garnernc.gov/ParksWebpages/July3/Main.htm or call (919) 773-4442.



Garner’s annual July 3rd Independence Day celebration boasts a fireworks display second to none in the area.



Concert Series Continues with Spare Change on June 26

The free Music Off Main Downtown Concert Series has been renamed Downtown Sounds: Music on the Lawn. The outdoor concerts are still held on the GPAC lawn (125 Avery St.). The remaining currently scheduled show of the season is Spare Change on **Thursday, June 26 from 6-9 p.m.** An earlier rained-out show will be rescheduled. As in the past, there will be food and beverage vendors (including at least one food truck) at the concerts. Bring your chairs or blankets, but coolers and pets are not allowed. For more information and updates, visit downtowngarner.com.



Public Works Names Employee of Year

Ed DaRosa was selected the Town of Garner Public Works Department Employee of the Year for 2013 and presented his award at a picnic held by the department to mark National Public Works Week on May 22. DaRosa was selected by his fellow employees after a nomination and election process.



You can find the Town's news releases at garnernc.gov.

A Garner resident, DaRosa began working with the town as a facilities maintenance technician in March 2005. In this position, he works to keep Town buildings and their various mechanical systems in top shape.

DaRosa is also Public Works' resident irrigation expert and, over the last several years, has helped the parks and grounds maintenance staff to renovate all of its irrigation systems. As a facilities maintenance technician, DaRosa interacts with virtually all the Town staff at one time or another through working in all of the Town's facilities and is well known for his cooperative and friendly spirit.

"Whenever I've called, day or night, Ed has always been ready to come in and take care of the job," Public Works Director Paul Cox said. "I regularly receive comments from my coworkers on the excellent service Ed provides. We are in the service business. Ed's approach toward his work shows his support



Ed DaRosa works to keep Town buildings and their various mechanical systems in top shape. He also is the Town's resident irrigation expert.

of our values of professionalism, partnership and cooperation in delivering that excellent service."

"Ed is a hard worker who carries a smile that most often produces another smile," says DaRosa's supervisor, Tyson Langdon. "Ed takes pride in his work no matter how dirty the job."

While with the Town, DaRosa has worked hard to improve his skills both on the job and through training. He has completed training in

confined space and lockout/tagout safety, forklift operation, trenching and excavation, door closers and controls, commercial irrigation, pumps and hydraulics and FEMA incident management. He also served his fellow coworkers for several years as a member of the Public Works Forum, a group that brings forth suggestions and ideas in the department and improves communication between management and staff.

DaRosa graduated from Naciona Portugal High School in Horta, Portugal, and attended college at Universidade Acores. He arrived in North Carolina by way of California. Prior to beginning work with the Town of Garner, he worked 15 years for the City of San Leandro, Calif., in the maintenance of a 40-acre water reclamation facility and grounds.

Along with a plaque recognizing him as Employee of the Year, DaRosa received an invitation for lunch with Town Manager Hardin Watkins, a fishing pass or park shelter rental, a special parking spot and sign at the Public Works complex and the most coveted prize of all, a "Take the Night Off Pass" from the July 3 Independence Day Celebration at Lake Benson Park, which tends to be the busiest workday (and night) of the year for Public Works staff.

Still Time To Submit Award Nomination

Nominations are being accepted for the 2014 James R. Stevens Service to Garner Award through June 15.

Anyone who has made substantial, outstanding contributions to the Town of Garner over a period of years is eligible for the award, now in its 27th year. Emphasis should

be placed on service rendered over an extended period of time rather than just what has been done in the preceding 12 months. Preference will be given to nominees with 20-plus years of service.

Non-residents of Garner are eligible if the award committee deems that they meet the necessary crite-

ria. The award also can be awarded posthumously.

A nomination form can be requested by emailing Kimberly Moffett, deputy town clerk for the Town of Garner, at kmoffett@garnernc.gov. For more information, please contact Moffett at (919) 773-4456.